

MAR 13 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH MANDARIN
CHINESE LANGUAGE CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, after decades of isolation, the Republic of China
2 emerged in the twenty-first century as a rising economic power;
3 reports predict that China's economy, currently the world's
4 second largest, is likely to pass the United States in less than
5 two decades; and
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7 WHEREAS, in an increasingly global economy, it is important
8 for today's children to be able to converse in a language other
9 than English and be sensitive to other cultures; and
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11 WHEREAS, the significance of the Mandarin Chinese language
12 is reflected in the United States Department of Defense's
13 classification of Mandarin as a critical needs foreign language;
14 and
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16 WHEREAS, in 2006, the United States Department of Education
17 noted that more than two hundred million children in China were
18 taking compulsory English classes, in contrast to twenty-four
19 thousand of fifty-four million American elementary and secondary
20 school students who were studying Chinese; and
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22 WHEREAS, however, in response to China's growing economic
23 global dominance, teachers and parents throughout the United
24 States have acknowledged the importance of learning the Mandarin
25 language, and the last decade has seen an impressive growth
26 nationwide in Mandarin language classes that range from
27 immersion classes for kindergarteners to mandatory Mandarin
28 language classes in some cities; and
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30 WHEREAS, experts state that learning another language
31 enhances learning in other areas; and
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1 WHEREAS, because of the structure of the Mandarin language,
2 with its tones and characters, educators have noted that the
3 students who study Mandarin Chinese use cognitive and academic
4 skills not addressed in studying most other foreign languages;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, offering Mandarin Chinese language courses to
8 Hawaii's public school students would help them to become
9 successful global citizens; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
14 Education is requested to establish a Mandarin Chinese language
15 curriculum in public high schools that will be available to
16 students by the 2015-2016 academic school year; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board
20 of Education and the Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY: _____

Jim

Paul P.

Michelle Indani

